

NAVY DOCUMENTS REPORTED FOUND IN SUSPECT'S HOME

F.B.I. Says Papers Described
Mideast Communications
and Secret Messages

By PHILIP SHENON

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WASHINGTON, June 7 — Two confidential documents, one of them describing Navy communications in the Middle East, were found in the home of California man accused of participating in a Soviet spy ring, the authorities said today.

They said the other document gave directions for the handling of secret Navy messages at the Alameda Naval Air Station, the California base where the suspect once served as a communications officer.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation made the assertions at a bail hearing in San Francisco for the suspect, Jerry A. Whitworth, a 45-year-old retired Navy radioman. He has been charged with espionage in what prosecutors describe as the most damaging spy case in decades.

Magistrate Bars Bail

After hearing the F.B.I.'s account, Federal Magistrate Frederick J. Woelflen ordered Mr. Whitworth held without bail.

"The Government has met its burden in establishing that the defendant is part of a conspiracy to transmit highly secret and confidential information of the armed forces of the United States," Magistrate Woelflen said. "This constitutes a danger not only to the community but to the nation as a whole."

William Smits, a bureau agent who testified at the hearing, also said 20 pages of documents about secret codes had been found in the home of John A. Walker Jr., the Virginia man who has been accused of organizing the espionage operation.

Fingerprints Are Reported

The documents contained information about "high-frequency communications systems and satellite systems for the Navy," Mr. Smits said.

He said Mr. Walker's fingerprints had been found on all 20 pages and Mr.

NEW YORK TIMES

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Whitworth's on seven. Fingerprints from Mr. Walker's son Michael were found on one page, he added.

The three have been arrested and accused of transmitting secret Navy documents to the Soviet Union. Mr. Walker's older brother, Arthur, has also been charged in the case. Until his arrest, Michael Walker was a yeoman aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz. The others are retired from the Navy.

Mr. Whitworth, who has been described as John Walker's closest friend, showed no emotion at the hearing at the Federal District Court in San Francisco.

In urging that Mr. Whitworth be freed on bail, his defense lawyer read a letter from the suspect's wife of nine years, Brenda Leah Reis.

She asked that Mr. Whitworth be released to her custody. Her husband, she wrote, "is an honorable man who will face the charges against him" and not attempt to flee.

But the magistrate was apparently persuaded by information produced by the Federal prosecutors, who called on Mr. Smits to testify.

Mr. Smits, a counterintelligence specialist for the F.B.I., said Mr. Whitworth was the man identified as D in secret notes that Mr. Walker is accused of writing to a Russian diplomat.

He gave few details of the two documents marked "confidential" that investigators said had been found in Mr. Whitworth's mobile home in Davis, Calif. The bureau, he said, was still trying to determine the importance of the information in the documents.

One, he said, was detailed "Navy communications contingency plans for the Middle East."

The other document described "secret message" handling at the Alameda Naval Air Station, a large Navy base near Oakland, he said. Mr. Whitworth, who served in the Navy for 23 years, had been stationed at Alameda as a communications specialist. Mr. Smits gave no other details on the two documents.

Evidence of Cashier's Checks

A criminal investigator for the Internal Revenue Service, Alexander D. Seddio, also testified at the hearing. He said evidence indicated that Mr. Whitworth had purchased 10 cashier's checks totaling \$22,000. He said the evidence had been found in a file cabinet in Mr. Whitworth's home.

He said the money had been used to Walker and Mr. Whitworth were friends and had written letters to each other. But he said, "What the Government is trying to do is to take perfectly innocent communications and make them into some kind of illegal activity."

In Dallas, meanwhile, Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d said "there may be some more arrests" in the case.

Questioned at a news conference,

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Mr. Meese said he discussed the case on Thursday with William H. Webster, Director of the F.B.I., who advised him "that they're not sure yet whether there may be more arrests as they find more suspects."

Asked to clarify Mr. Meese's comments, an F.B.I. spokesman in Washington would say only, "Our investigation is continuing."

At the news conference in Dallas, where he was giving a speech, Mr. Meese said the Walker case underscored the need to reduce the number of Americans who now have access to classified documents.

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger has said that the Pentagon plans to cut back on the number of people with authority to see classified papers.

buy stock from August 1979 to November 1983. The cashier's checks had been bought using hundred dollar bills.

The prosecutor, William S. Farmer, an assistant United States attorney, told the magistrate that he was offering information about the checks because "the use of currency is always regarded as an indication of criminal activity" on the part of "someone who does not want to leave a paper trail."

The defense lawyer, Louis Hiken, disputed the assertion and said, "These amounts of money do not in any way suggest dishonesty on the part of my client."

He noted that Mr. Whitworth had an annual salary of about \$35,000, no children and no substantial debts that would make it difficult for him to make investments in the stock market.

After the hearing, Mr. Hiken called a news conference and asserted, "The case is being tried in the press."

"When the Government attempts to try a case in the press, it means they are going to subsequently lose in the courtroom," he said.

Mr. Hiken acknowledged that John